

# Missouri

## FFA Today

November/December 2001

**A**s fall

fades to winter, we ready ourselves for the Christmas season. Gifts, lights, and decorated trees come to mind, and so do poinsettias.

Franklin Tech Center in Joplin, Carthage Tech Center, and

Warrensburg AVTS are just a few of the FFA chapters that have chosen to grow these festive plants, for chapter profits and a learning experience. Each of these chapters markets approximately 1,100 plants from their schools per year.

The schools receive the prestarted

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By Kaci Ballou

## Earning... and Learning

cording to Randy Commons, advisor at Franklin Technical Center in Joplin, the amount of light that the plants receive should be carefully regulated during this growing process. Commons says that they shade the crop for five to six weeks, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

"We are trying to trick the plants into be-

lieving that it is a short day, long night." This time of darkness will initiate color changes in the plants.

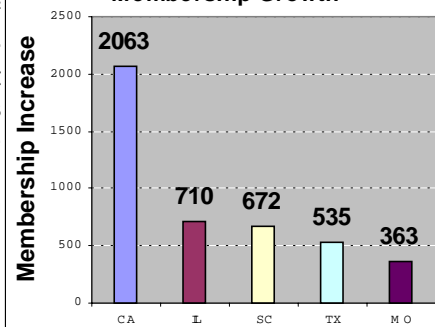
Each of the chapters markets their poinsettias through their school. They

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cuttings near the first week of school, in late August. These cuttings are then potted and cared for until December. They are either planted three to a pot, which is termed "three bloom" or are planted singly into a pot.

At Warrensburg AVTS, the students are responsible for the potting, insect control, fertilizing and marketing of the plants. Warrensburg FFA Advisor Kenneth Hoeman teaches a unit on poinsettias, giving the students valuable information. The Warrensburg chapter grows seven varieties of poinsettias, ranging from the more common Freedom Red, which is red in color, to Jingle Bells, which is pink with a white streak. Poinsettias are particular plants. Ac-

Missouri Ranks 5th in FFA Membership Growth



Based on 2000-2001 Membership Data.

November/December 2001

## Jabber from Jamie... Give Someone a Lift

Every time I went horseback riding with my dad when I was younger he would always give me a boost up onto my horse before he took off on his. I was fine once we were riding, but I just needed a little help to get started.

Whenever I face challenges it is nice to know that someone is there to stand behind me. Although I have moved on from my horseback riding days, I still look to my dad, as well as friends, teachers, and others around me for support.

The night before the state officer interviews at convention I was talking to my advisor on the phone. We were talking about the interviews and making plans since he was bringing other students from our chapter the next day. Before we got off the phone I said, "Mr. Wright, do you have any words of wisdom for me for tomorrow?" His reply was very simple, "Just be yourself, and don't be nervous. You're going to do great."

After we got off the phone I sat there for a little while thinking that those words had not been much of a pep talk, but I knew that those words meant something much more. It had taken me almost four years to realize how wonderful and inspiring just a few simple words can be.

The next day I walked off stage after our team had been introduced and my advisor was the first one to greet me. For the first time in the nearly four years that I had known him, he hugged me. As he embraced me, he said the words, "Jamie, I knew you were going to do it. I never had a doubt!"

Those few words that I thought were short pep talks had actually meant "I believe in you, Jamie." Not only

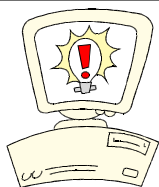


Jamie Lile  
State President

did he believe in me when I walked off stage and the night before those interviews, he had always believed in me. Those words are now more than enough to inspire me when I am confused, to motivate me when I am tired, and to comfort me when I am worried. I wish I had realized long ago what they meant. I am undeserving of such support, but I receive it anyway.

FFA members, we need to be like my advisor. We need to lift up those around us when they are scared of challenges they face or when they are excited about new endeavors they are pursuing. We don't have to, and shouldn't, expect anything in return.

I read a quote the other day that said, "To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world." Take time today to encourage someone, and don't worry if the favor will be returned. A few words might just mean the world to them.



Visit us on the web  
[www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/agric/index.html](http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/agric/index.html)

2001/2002

### State Officers

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5	<b>Jason Hayes - 1st V.P.</b> Pleasant Hill FFA
8	<b>Erica Coble - Secretary</b> Dadeville FFA
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4	<b>Jessica Lehenbauer</b> North Callaway FFA
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10	<b>Renea Honeycutt</b> Couch FFA
11	<b>Jason Davis</b> Warrenton FFA
12	<b>Matthew Fox</b> Woodland FFA
13	<b>Eric Boswell</b> Naylor FFA
8	<b>Dana Staley</b> Past President King City FFA

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## Greenhand Conferences Set for January

The six National FFA Officers will make their annual stop in Missouri January 8-11 for six Greenhand Motivational Conferences to be held at locations across the state. The conferences are designed for first year FFA members and will focus on goal setting and motivation, as well as the opportunities that exist in the FFA. Following is a list of the dates and locations for the conferences. For more information, contact your local FFA advisor.

### Greenhand Motivational Conferences

January  
8..Central District - 9 a.m.  
CMSU, Warrensburg  
8..Northeast District -  
4:30 p.m. - Paris  
9..South Central District -  
9 a.m. - Rolla  
9..Southeast District -  
3:30 p.m.- SEMO,  
Cape Girardeau  
10..Southwest District  
SMSU, McDonald Arena,  
Springfield  
11..Northwest District  
Missouri Western,  
St. Joseph

### Hey, high school sophomores!

REMEMBER Missouri Agribusiness Academy Applications are due February 1.

## Going Global

By Kaci Ballou

Some Missouri FFA Chapters are going global! With websites, that is. The Internet is the most efficient way to research, see photos, and get information, and many FFA chapters are using it to get their word out!

To create a website all you need is a computer and access to the internet. Once on the Internet, finding a program on which to create the webpage is fairly easy. Sweet

Springs FFA uses MOREnet for its internet needs. The Missouri Research and Edu-

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Sweet Springs FFA members update the chapter's website.

CMSU  
1/3 page  
AD

## Earning and Learning - Continued from Page A

advertise on school websites, e-mail the teachers, and produce flyers to spread the information, and the plants sell quickly. The Franklin Tech Center sells its plants to their school band, who in turn uses the Poinsettias as a fund-raiser.



Chris Cloud, Carthage FFA advisor says, "They have a good profit, and are easy to sell." His chapter's poinsettias are sold to teachers, parents, family members, local churches, and some local businesses. Their chapter doesn't try to compete with the local economy; they just sell to those associated with the school and the students.

Warrensburg FFA has made their poinsettia project into part of a S.A.E. program for chapter members. Each student earns 10% commission on each plant that he/she sells, which is credited toward the student's project. Hoeman says, "The students are earning and learning at the same time." The rest of the profits go back into the horticulture program and for enhancements.

The FFA chapters are hoping for another successful season in their greenhouses this year. With the students' hard work and helpful advisement from their instructors, these beautiful plants will make it a merrier Christmas for all who own one!

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**SMSU**  
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# Making an Impact

Former FFA  
Member Profile:  
Mike Mills

By Kaci Ballou

**W**hen many high school freshmen attend State FFA convention for the first time, it becomes a motivating experience. For Mike Mills, attending inspired him to make a future goal. He, then, decided that he wanted to be a state officer. It was from this convention, and the activities within his FFA chapter at Bernie High School, that he began to learn about positive leadership abilities from the older members of the FFA.

Mike grew up in Bernie, Mo., on his family farm. There they grew corn, soybeans, wheat, and milo, and raised cattle. Mike graduated from the University of Missouri - Columbia with a degree in Agricultural Economics in 1996.

After his graduation, he began working for the offices of Senators

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## Going Global - Continued from Page C

cation Network is affiliated with the University of Missouri and is Missouri's not-for-profit electronic information network. MOREnet serves higher education, elementary and secondary education, public libraries, state agencies, and other state organizations and government agencies in Missouri. MOREnet does not supply private Internet access. For more information go to [www.more.net](http://www.more.net).

To design the site, Sweet Springs' Advisor Dan Hill used "Front Page" by Microsoft, which is available at many software and electronic suppliers.

Another option for designing a site is to go to [www.geocities.yahoo.com](http://www.geocities.yahoo.com) and set up an account there. The account is free and basic web page design capabilities and graphics are available. Packages are available for \$8.95 - 11.95 per month for larger, more intensive sites. Information is available at their site, and is very helpful for getting started.

Once you've made it this far, the rest should be fairly easy. Decide who the website will be targeted toward: the general public who is interested in what the FFA is; or to the chapter, for chapter information and events. Both options can be joined together if the site is set up with enough explanations of the different areas. Jennifer Bacon, an advisor for Belle FFA says that the main goal of their website was to say, "This is us and the things that we do."

Decide what you and your chapter think is important enough to be put onto the website. Sweet Springs FFA puts chapter history, information for members, goals, class offerings, and advertising all on its page. North Callaway FFA emphasizes advertising, for those who are interested in joining the FFA, but do not know what it is. It is also important that the chapter decides whether to use chapter photographs on their website or not. A scanner or digital camera will

be needed to put these photos onto the computer; both can be expensive but useful tools.

It is advisable to have your chapter put together a group to gather photos and information. Decide who will set it up and maintain it, according to the technology that is available.

At Belle and North Callaway, an FFA student set up the website using both the school's computer and the member's home computer. At Sweet Springs, the advisor set up the website using the computer in the school office. Make decisions taking into account what computers are available.

The final critical step in having a chapter website is keeping it current. This may require weekly, monthly or yearly changes, depending on what

types of information your chapter features on its website. Sweet Springs FFA Advisor Dan Hill explains, "The difficulty is in maintaining (the site)." Keeping this in mind, it is important to have a person learning each year how to work on the website.

With students graduating each year, there is a chance that your chapter will be left with a website that no member will know how to maintain. This has been a problem at North Callaway FFA, notes advisor Lauri Woolfolk. "We are needing an officer or someone to do it; a former student will need to show them how."

Just remember to have fun with your chapter's website! Let it show the globe your chapter's hard work and personality.

Visit Belle FFA, Sweet Springs FFA, and North Callaway FFA at [www.FFA.org](http://www.FFA.org).

## Making an Impact - Continued from Page E

Bond and Ashcroft. Later that year, he became the Director of Research for the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. In August of 1999, Mike became professional staff for the U.S. House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Business Opportunities, and Special Business Problems. In May of 2000, Mike served as Congressman Jim Talent's Special Assistant on agriculture and rural affairs. He is now at Senator Christopher Bond's office as Deputy State Director.

Mike believes that the FFA helped him be successful in his career by gaining confidence. He says it also helped him to "learn to fulfill projects effectively." He carried out his goal and became a State Officer in 1991. His state office was a learning experience for him.

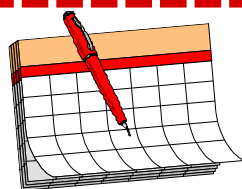
"I got to meet many other great lead-

ers," mentions Mills, "and I had many responsibilities where I learned the confidence in myself to meet those responsibilities." Also, during his term as a state officer, he met his wife Amy.

Even though Mike has now moved on in his own career, he can still see the benefits the FFA holds for today's members. "The FFA provides opportunities above and beyond a typical high school experience," says Mike. "It helps (members) to gain confidence in themselves, teaches them to think for themselves, and helps them to build a strong career in the future."

When asked what he liked about holding a state FFA office, Mills responded, "To carry out a job and have an impact on an organization." It seems that he has carried this concept on to all of his endeavors.





**FFA**

## Calendar



- 1 United Sportsmen League Wildlife Cons. Grant DUE
- 1 MU Scholarship Apps. DUE
- 2 Speaking Finals - Mo Farm Bureau & Sheep Prod. - Tan-Tar-A
- 13-15 Mo Cattlemen's/ Cattewomen Convention Tan-Tar-A
- 16-18 Governor's Conference on Agriculture - Tan-Tar -A



- 8-10 State FFA Officer Goodwill Tour - Business & Industry Tour
- 15 MPPA District Speaking Winner Manuscripts DUE
- 15 MPPA Sales & Marketing Contest Entry Deadline
- 25-27 Mo Assoc. of Fairs & Festivals Convention - Columbia



- 1 MPPA Sales & Marketing Written Plan DUE
- 1 Mo. Agribusiness Academy Apps. DUE
- 4-8 Ag Sciences Week - Univ. of Mo. - Columbia
- 15 National FFA Scholarships DUE
- 16-23 National FFA Week**
- 26-27 Mo. Pork Expo - Columbia
- 26 MPPA State Speaking Finals - Columbia
- 26 MPPA State Sales & Marketing Contest Finals - Columbia

## Chapter Chatter

### Northwest District - Norborne

FFA members in Norborne are set to hold their community blood drive in November. The small rural community sets a goal of 60 units. Members will also participate in th Area 2 Lock-in in Chillicothe.

### Northeast District - Macon AVTS

Macon FFA members have been busy building a "patriotic-themed" float for the school's homecoming. Members are also raising funds to help terrorism victims in New York City and hope to help them connect to ag and FFA.

### South Central District - Steelville

Members of the Steelville FFA are enjoying the recent completion of a renovation project which includes adding a greenhouse and a paint booth to the ag department. The chapter is also involved in helping to renovate the school's cross country track, and will

raffle off a deer rifle during deer season for a fundraiser.

### Central District - Appleton City

Appleton City FFA members have been busy with a chapter hay ride and barnwarming. During the barnwarming greenhands receive their awards, while a dance and games are also held.

### Southeast District - Bernie

Sales from beef jerky helped raise funds for Bernie FFA members to attend National FFA Convention. Some 14 students were able to make the trip, which was the first for chapter members in six years.

### Southwest District - El Dorado Springs

El Dorado Springs FFA members recently held a chili supper to help raise funds for the chapter. About 1000 people turned out for the event, which usuall nets the chapter around \$2,000. FFA'ers are also assisting the Mo. Dept. of Conservation and the Nature Conservacy with a prairie land restoration project

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# When the Jacket Doesn't Fit...

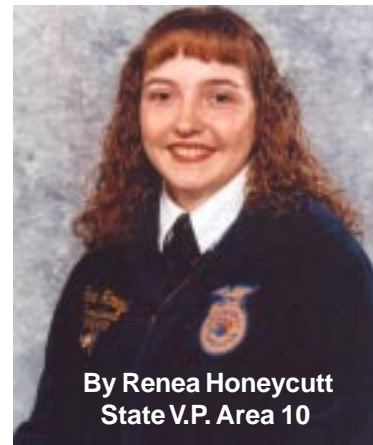
You may outgrow the jacket, but you will never outgrow the experience. I read this phrase everyday when I went to my agriculture class at Couch High School. Now, as I look back on my four years of FFA at Couch, I realize how true these words are. After our Chapter FFA banquet, I took my Chapter FFA jacket off, realizing that I would never wear it again. At first I was really upset and sad, but now I know that I can look at that FFA jacket and remember some of the greatest times of my life.

I remember attending the National FFA Convention as a Greenhand. WHAT AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE! FFA members from all across the country gathered together at Kansas City for one purpose... FFA! Being a part of the sea of blue corduroy is an experience in itself and cannot be put into words.

Another unforgettable FFA experience is State FFA Camp. When I attended Camp Rising Sun, I made some memories that I will always remember. I learned that meeting other FFA members can be a blast! I made friends that week with whom I am still friends today. By participating in the leadership sessions I learned how to be a stronger leader. I even attempted to learn how to ski on the lake! Camp provides many opportunities for the campers to learn something new.

FFA members, if you have the chance to participate in the Washington Leadership Conference, do it! My leadership skills must have doubled after the leadership training I received there! The WLC staff is a great group of professionals who have a wonderful program to train FFA members to be good leaders. By touring the historical monuments, I developed a stronger respect for our country. I encourage everyone to attend this conference!

These are only a few of many FFA experiences that have made a difference in my life. FFA members, I sincerely hope that each of you will take advantage of each opportunity that the FFA provides for you. One day your FFA jacket may not fit just right, but the experiences that were lived in that jacket will fit you for the rest of your life.



By Renea Honeycutt  
State V.P. Area 10

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Services  
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